being taken by Indian Railways to minimize incidence of accidents include adoption of suitable modern technology for interlocking and signalling system, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over-aged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precautions and provision of Anti Collision Device.

Shortage of drivers and engines

2176. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the goal of transporting 700 million tonnes of cargo a year by the Railways, has run into rough weather owing to acute shortage of drivers and engines;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement, availability and shortage of drivers and railway engines; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to make good the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur broad gauge line

2177. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for construction of Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new broad gauge railway line;

(b) whether Government are aware that this line is very vital for development of Bastar region inhabited by tribals; and

(c) if so, how long it would take to complete the project and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new line project is to be